

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3277

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3709

MADRID ALSO FOR AMB CARLUCCI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH CAPT. RAMIRO CORREIA

REF: A. LISBON 3362; B. LISBON 3252

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET ON JUNE 30 WITH CAPTAIN RAMIRO CORREIA, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) MEMBER AND NEWLY-DESIGNATED HEAD OF FIFTH DIVISION OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF (INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA). CORREIA WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL THROUGHOUT MEETING AND RESPONDED FREELY TO QUESTIONS ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS, INCLUDING: (1) RECENT REORGANIZATION OF RC; (2) RESULTS OF AFM NAVY ASSEMBLY; (3) CDR'S; (4) FIFTH DIVISION'S COMMUNIST-LINING POLITICAL HANDBOOK; AND (5) FIFTH DIVISION PERSONNEL.

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2. RC REORGANIZATION: CORREIA SAID RC REORGANIZATION AND

CREATION OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE CARRIED NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. PRINCIPAL MOTIVE FOR REORGANIZATION WAS EFFICIENCY OF OPERATION; HE NOTED THAT RC WAS SIMPLY TOO UNWIELDY FOR DECISION-MAKING PURPOSES. THOSE INCLUDED ON CENTRAL COMMITTEE, HE SAID, WERE RC MEMBERS WHO HAD DEMONSTRATED BOTH INTEREST AND APTITUDE FOR TASKS COMMITTEE WILL BE CALLED UPON TO PERFORM.

3. CORREIA STATED THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME NEW FACES ON RC POLITICAL COMMITTEE (SEPTEL). CORREIA NOTED THAT FOUR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN ON POLITICAL COMMITTEE--INCLUDING HIMSELF, BGENERAL CHARAIS, CPT MACEDO, NAD LT JUDAS--ALL HAD IMPORTANT TASKS TO PERFORM ELSEWHERE. HE POINTED OUT THAT TIMING OF REORGANIZATION WAS PARTICULARLY FORTUNATE IN CASE OF VITOR CRESPO WHO WAS AGAIN AVAILABLE FOR RC DUTIES FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM MOZAMBIQUE.

4. RESULTS OF NAVY ASSEMBLY: QUESTIONED REGARDING STATEMENT ISSUED BY RECENTLY-CONCLUDED AFM NAVY ASSEMBLY, CORREIA SAID THAT VOICE OF NAVY WILL ONLY BE ONE AMONG SEVERAL AT UPCOMING AFM GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THAT CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL REFLECT VIEWS OF CONSENSUS. HE IMPLIED THAT STRIDENT TONE STRUCK IN NAVY STATEMENT MAY IN PART HAVE BEEN TACTICALLY MOTIVATED WITH FOREGOING IN MIND.

5. CDR'S: CORREIA REFUSED TO BE PINNED DOWN REGARDING AFM POSITION ON COMMITTEES FOR DEFENSE OF REVOLUTION (CDR'S) AND OTHER MASS ORGANIZATIONS. HE SAID AFM WAS PREPARED TO WORK WITH ALL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH WERE "NON-PARTY" AND WHICH SUPPORTED GOALS OF REVOLUTION.

6. POLITICAL HANDBOOK WITHDRAWN: ASKED ABOUT COMMUNIST-LINING CHAPTER FROM POLITICAL HANDBOOK USED BY FIFTH DIVISION IN ITS DYNAMIZATION EFFORTS, CAPT CORREIA RESPONDED WITHOUT HESITATION THAT EPISODE HAD BEEN UNFORTUNATE ERROR (REF A). CONTROVERSIAL CHAPTER HAD, HE SAID, BEEN PROVIDED BY A COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER WHO HAD "INFILTRATED" FIFTH DIVISION ORGANIZATION. TEXT HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN AND APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE.
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7. FIFTH DIVISION PERSONNEL: ASKED ABOUT HIS APPOINTMENT TO FIFTH DIVISION POSITION, CORREIA CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD BEEN NAMED TO JOB BECAUSE RC WANTED ONE OF ITS OWN TO HEAD THIS KEY ORGANIZATION (REF B). HE ADDED THAT ANOTHER RESPONSIBLE POSITION WAS BEING SOUGHT FOR FORMER HEAD, COL. ROBIN DE ANDRADE, AND THAT COL. VARELO GOMES WOULD BE KEPT ON AS HEAD OF THE FIFTH DIVISION'S CENTER FOR MILITARY SOCIOLOGY. MEMCON FOLLOWS.

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